

### **REMARKS**

Claims 3-8, 10-14, and 16 are pending in the application. Claims 5, 6, 10, and 16 have been amended hereby. Claims 9 and 15 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 3-6 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, and 14; and that Claims 9, 10, 15, and 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Therefore, independent Claim 5 has been amended to recite all the limitations of Claim 9, and independent Claim 6 has been amended to recite all the limitations of Claim 15, and Claims 9 and 15 have been cancelled.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 3-6, and the claims depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

An early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

/Pedro C. Fernandez/\_\_\_\_\_

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